



SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER

KEN SIKKEMA

NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Majority Leader Sikkema says Legislature should move ‘quickly but prudently’ on governor’s tax proposal

Lansing – Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema today said the Legislature should move “quickly but prudently” on the governor’s proposal to replace the state’s Single Business Tax.

“The governor has offered a serious and credible plan that deserves immediate review,” said Sikkema, R-Wyoming.

Sikkema noted that Sen. Nancy Cassis has scheduled a Senate Finance Committee meeting for this afternoon to start working on the proposal. Sen. Cassis also has scheduled a joint committee meeting with the House of Representatives to compare the governor’s proposal with other proposals submitted as alternatives to the SBT.

“I am asking all Senators to get these proposals out to their constituents in the business community for valuable feedback and they should be prepared to discuss an SBT replacement next Tuesday morning,” Sikkema said. “If we can craft a proposal that is ready for a vote, then we should be prepared to vote. Good policy should dictate the timeline on this activity, not an artificial deadline created by session schedules.”

Sikkema said he is reserving judgment on most of the governor’s proposal until a full review is completed. He noted, however, that he would like to examine whether the state’s personal property tax could be eliminated or phased out more aggressively than in the governor’s plan.

Sikkema also said he wants the Legislature and the governor prepared to address another immediate problem facing the state: the long-term financial status of Michigan’s public schools.

“It is impossible to protect the fiscal health of schools in this state without addressing the need for health-insurance reform for school employees,” Sikkema said. “The governor and the Legislature need to be prepared to discuss the completion of Senate Bills 895-898 next week as well.”

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